

REMARKS

Claims 56-125 remain in this application. Claim 56 has been amended. New claims 115-125 have been added. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the following remarks.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

In the Final Office Action mailed on 10/13/2005, the Examiner has rejected claims 56-114 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,141,567 to Youssefmir et al. (hereinafter "Youssefmir"). The rejection was maintained in the Advisory Action mailed on 1/11/2006.

As previously submitted, Youssefmir does not teach or suggest the limitations of the independent claims. The remarks in the Office Action Response mailed on December 9, 2005 are pertinent to this point. For at least this reason, the claims 56-114 are believed to be allowable over Youssefmir.

Additionally, in order to expedite grant of the present patent application, the Applicants submit herewith a declaration pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.131 to overcome the above-identified rejection based on Youssefmir. The declaration establishes conception of the invention prior to the June 7, 1999 effective date of Youssefmir, and diligence from prior to said date to the filing of the present patent application on June 21, 1999.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 56-114 based on Youssefmir has been overcome. Applicants respectfully request that the claims 56-114 be passed to allowance.

Conclusion

It is believed that all pending claims patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the claims be allowed at the earliest possible date.

Request For Telephone Interview

The Examiner is invited to call Brent E. Vecchia at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Charge Our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date:

3/16/06

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